•was off; making it a rule aways to leave with a good impression. He pressed me not to go. I told him I had so much to do!' . . When I arrived home I found an invitation for Tuesday. . • • Clay confesses my triumph is complete and unrivalled.[1]

To Benjamin Austen.

MALTA, ***Sept.*** **14.**

From Gibraltar I arrived here, a place from which I expected little and have found much. Valetta surprises me as one of the most beautiful cities I have ever visited, something between Venice and Cadiz. . . . It has not a single tree, but the city is truly magnificent, full of palaces worthy of Palladio. I have still illness enough to make xny life a burthen, and as my great friend the Sun is daily becoming less powerful, I daily grow more dispirited and resume my old style of despair. Had I been cured by this time, I had made up my mind to join you in Italy — as it is, I go I know not where, but do not be surprised if you hear something very strange indeed. . . . The smallpox rages here so desperately that they have put a- quarantine of three weeks at Sicily, which has prevented my. trip to an island I much desire to visit. . . . Write to me about your movements, in order that, if possible, I may meet you and see the Coliseum by moonlight with Madame, and all that. I was told here by a person of consideration that my father was to be in the new batch of baronets, but I suppose this is a lie. If it be offered I am sure he will refuse, but I have no idea that it will.

To Ralph Disraeli.

, , ^ MALTA.

MY DEAR RALPH,

Mashallah! Here I am sitting in an easy chair, with a Turkish pipe six feet long, with an amber mouthpiece and a porcelain bowl. What a revolution I But what if I tell you that I not only have become a smoker, but the greatest smoker in Malta. The fact is I find it relieves my head. Barrow,[2] who is here in the 'Blonde/ . . . has given me a meerschaum, and Anstruther a most splendid Dresden green china, set in silver —an extremely valuable pipe; but there is nothing like a meerschaum.

p. 83. a Younger son of Sir John Barrow.